

Appl. No. : 10/550,672
I.A. Filed : March 25, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace for producing compacted ceramics, comprising:

a hood-shaped firing chamber into which a muffle can be inserted and which is closed in operation by a bottom plate, with a pneumatic cylinder being mounted on the firing chamber whose working pressure can be set by means of a pressure reducer, characterized in that wherein at least two pressure reducers (9a, 9b) are each provided with different working pressure or the pressure reducer is provided in the form of a proportional pressure regulator with electronically controllable different working pressures.

2. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the pressure reducers (9a, 9b) are arranged on a plate-like support basis (2).

3. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to claim 2, characterized in that wherein a pneumatic and/or electronic control unit is provided on the support basis (2) whose lines (9) and/or cabling is introduced from below into the at least one duct (8) in a guide column (6).

4. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein three pressure reducers (9a, 9b, ...) are provided which each provide a working pressure of 4, 5 and 6 bar in particular.

5. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to claim 4, characterized in that wherein the input or system pressure in the pneumatic line (9) is approximately 10 bar.

6. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 5, characterized in that wherein the guide column (6) comprises at least two ducts (8), with lines (9) to the pneumatic cylinder (10) and electric cables being guided separated from another.

7. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 6, characterized in that wherein the firing chamber (3) is suspended at the upper end of the guide column (6).

8. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 7, characterized in that wherein the pneumatic lines (9) are monitored by pressure sensors which are connected with an electronic control unit.

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9. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 8, characterized in that wherein the pressure reducers (9a, 9b,...) or the proportional pressure regulator are coupled with a program unit, especially a memory card, in which different heating and/or compacting processes are stored.

10. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 9, characterized in that wherein outlet slots (8a) for lines or cables are provided in the upper/lower region of a duct (8).